

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Hinojosa et al.

SERIAL No. Unassigned

EXAMINER: Unassigned

FILED: Herewith

GROUP No.: Unassigned

TITLE: COMPONENT ATTACHMENTS

Attorney Docket No.: 60990063-3

Commissioner For Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

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DEBBIE CURRAN

Name

Debbie Curran

Signature

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Please amend the application as follows:

In The Specification

On page 1, at line 2, insert -- Background of the Invention--

-- 1. Field of the Invention --.

On page 1, at line 6, insert -- 2. Discussion of the Background Art --.

On page 1, at line 20, insert -- Summary of The Invention --.

On page 3, at line 4, please insert --Brief Description of the Drawings--.

On page 4, at line 8, please insert --Detailed Description of the Invention--.

In The Abstract

On line 1, after "ABSTRACT" insert --OF THE DISCLOSURE--

In The Claims

1. (Amended) A device comprising at least a first component and a second component adjoining each other over a length and having different thermal coefficients of expansion, said first and second components being attached to each other by first attachment means at a first position and by second attachment means at a second position, spaced from said first position along said length, said first and second components being relatively fixed at said first position, wherein at least said first component is formed so that, at said second position, said first component can move relative to said second component.

2. (Amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein said first component comprises one or more flexible limb elements having respective free ends having means for attachment to said second component.

3. (Amended) A device according to claim 2, wherein said first component comprises a plurality of walls defining an enclosure and said flexible limb elements extend from said walls into the interior of said enclosure.

4. (Amended) A device according to claim 3, wherein said flexible limb elements comprise a first limb element and a second limb element, and said plurality of wall comprise a first wall and a second wall opposed to said first wall, wherein said first limb element extends inwardly from said first wall and said second limb element extends inwardly from said second wall.

5. (Amended) A device according to claim 1 comprising two second positions, one at each end of said first component, with said first position being arranged at a central location.

6. (Amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein said first component is divided into a plurality of separate sub-components along a length thereof.

7. (Amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein one or both of said components are capable of bowing in a direction perpendicular to adjoining surfaces of said components and the total amount of bow is equal to or less than

SERIAL No. Unassigned
GROUP No.: Unassigned

0.02% of said adjoining length.

8. (Amended) A device according to claim 7, wherein the total amount of bow is equal to or less than 0.02% over a range of operating temperatures of said device.

9. (Amended) A device according to claim 1 wherein said first component is made of plastics material and said second component is made of metal.

10. (Amended) A device according to claim 9, wherein said first component is a vacuum guide member of a printer and said second component is a chassis of said printer.

11. (Amended) A device comprising first and second components adjoining each other over a length and having different thermal coefficients of expansion, the components being attached to each other at a first position and at a second position, spaced from said first position along said length, wherein said first and second attachment positions are relatively displaceable in the direction of said length.

SERIAL No. Unassigned
GROUP No.: Unassigned

Remarks

Claims 1-11 remain in the application.

The specification has been amended to include headings in accordance with US practice.

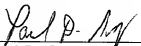
Claims 1-11 have been amended to eliminate the phrase "characterized by," and any lack of antecedent basis. As such, claims 1-11 have been clarified by amendment for purposes of form. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to claims 1-11 are neither narrowing nor made for substantial reasons related to patentability as defined by the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit (CAFC) in Festo Corporation v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., Ltd., 95-1066 (Fed. Cir. 2000). Therefore, the amendments to claims 1-11 do not create prosecution history estoppel and, as such, the doctrine of equivalents is available for all of the elements of claims 1-11.

Consideration and allowance of application is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made."

Respectfully submitted,

8-22-01
Date



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In The Specification

On page 1, at line 2, insert -- Background of the Invention--

-- 1. Field of the Invention --.

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On page 4, at line 8, please insert --Detailed Description of the Invention--.

In The Abstract

On line 1, after "ABSTRACT" insert --OF THE DISCLOSURE--

In The Claims

1. (Amended) A device comprising at least [two components] a first component and a second component adjoining each other over a length and having different thermal coefficients of expansion, [the] said first and second components being attached to each other by first attachment means at a first position and by second attachment means at a second position, spaced from said first position along said length, [the] said first and second components being relatively fixed at [the] said first position, [characterised in that] wherein at least [a first of the] said first component[s] is formed so that, at [the] said second position, [it] said first component can move relative to [the other] said second component.

2. (Amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein said first component comprises one or more flexible limb elements having respective free ends having means for attachment to [the other] said second component.

3. (Amended) A device according to claim 2, wherein said first component comprises a plurality of walls defining an enclosure and said flexible limb elements

extend from said walls into the interior of said enclosure.

4. (Amended) A device according to claim 3, wherein [a] said flexible limb elements comprise a first limb element and a second limb element, and said plurality of wall comprise a first wall and a second wall opposed to said first wall, wherein said first limb element extends inwardly from [one of] said first wall[s] and [a] said second limb element extends inwardly from [an opposed one of] said second wall[s].

5. (Amended) A device according to claim 1 comprising two second positions, one at each end of [the] said first component, with [the] said first position being arranged at a central location.

6. (Amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein said first component is divided into a plurality of separate sub-components along [the] a length thereof.

7. (Amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein one or both of said components are capable of bowing in a direction perpendicular to [the] adjoining surfaces of said components and the total amount of bow is equal to or less than 0.02% of said adjoining length.

8. (Amended) A device according to claim 7, wherein the total amount of bow is equal to or less than 0.02% over [the normal] a range of operating temperatures of said device.

9. (Amended) A device according to claim 1 wherein [the] said first component is made of plastics material and [the other] said second component is made of metal.

10. (Amended) A device according to claim 9, wherein [the] said first component is a [printer] vacuum guide member of a printer and [the other] said second component is a chassis of [the] said printer.

11. (Amended) A device comprising first and second components adjoining each other over a length and having different thermal coefficients of expansion, the components being attached to each other at a first position and at a second

SERIAL No. Unassigned
GROUP No.: Unassigned

position, spaced from said first position along said length, [characterised in that]
wherein said first and second attachment positions are relatively displaceable in
the direction of said length.

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